

CENTRE FOR JOINT WARFARE STUDIES



CENJOWS

CHINA'S SATELLITE LAUNCH CENTRES

PRC's Satellite Launch Centres

1. The PRC operates 4 satellite launch centers:-
 - (a) Jiu Quan Satellite Launch Center (JSLC).
 - (b) Xichang Satellite Launch Center (XSLC).
 - (c) Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center (TSLC).
 - (d) Wenchang Satellite Launch Center (WSLC).

2. China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp (CASIC) has reported that Kuaizhou rocket industrial park, which is based in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, has been partially put into operation. After it is fully operational, the park is expected to be capable of completing the assembly and testing for 20 solid-fuelled carrier rockets annually. The construction of the park began in May 2017 and it is the first commercial project located at Wuhan's national aerospace industrial base.

3. Kuaizhou, which is Chinese name for fast ship, is actually a low-cost solid-fuelled carrier rocket with high reliability and a short preparation period.¹ In Kuaizhou series, the Kuaizhou-1A is a high reliable, high precision and low cost solid launch vehicle developed by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASIC) and commercialized by the China Space Sanjiang Group Corporation (EXPACE). The rocket is 20-meter-long with lift-off mass of 30 tons, and its maximum diameter is 1.4 meter. The vehicle's power is provided by three solid motors and one liquid motor and capable of launching multiple payloads. The vehicle design is possibly based on the road mobile DF-21 missile with addition of two additional upper stages. The launch vehicle can send a 200kg payload into a 700km sun- synchronous orbit. It mainly offers the service of sending a small satellite into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) to domestic and international customers.

4. Global security Org reports that Kuaizhou series of rockets could also be used by China to provide a rapid ability to replace Chinese satellites that might be damaged or, destroyed by an attack.²



Image of the Kuaizhou-1A launcher.

¹pacedaily.com/reports/Chinas_Kuaizhou_rocket_industrial_park_partially_operational_999.html

²<https://www.globalsecurity.org/space/world/china/kz-1.htm>